

## REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,553,347 (Tavor).

Claim 1 of the instant application relates to a method of managing a dispute about a pre-existing agreement. Information relating to the dispute is automatically receiving from one of an initiator and a respondent, the initiator and the respondent being parties to the agreement. Portions of the information are iteratively provided to the other of the initiator and the respondent in accordance with predetermined criteria relating to either:

- a rating of a portion of the information supplied after a start of the dispute by the initiator or the respondent, or
- relating to the number of portions of the information to be provided at an iteration.

Basis for the claimed pre-existing agreement is at page 4, line 6. Basis for the claimed predetermined criteria is at the paragraph bridging pages 5-6.

Tavor discloses a system for automatically negotiating. The participants to a negotiation in Tavor's system are a computer and a potential purchaser of a product. The computer responds to the potential purchaser's price offer by offering an adjusted price for the product.

Differences between the method of claim 1 and Tavor include:

- Tavor's system is for negotiating prior to a purchase agreement being formed, whereas the present invention is for managing a dispute about agreement already formed;

- Tavor's system is for negotiating with a potential purchaser (interacting with one party), whereas the present invention is for receiving information relating to the dispute from one of an initiator and a respondent, and providing information to the other of the initiator and the respondent (interacting with at least two parties);
- Tavor does not show or suggest the claimed "predetermined criteria" provided after the start of the dispute by the initiator or the respondent.

Accordingly, since Tavor does not show or suggest these features of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Tavor. Claims 2-10, in depending from claim 1, each incorporate all of its features and are similarly patentably distinguished from Tavor.

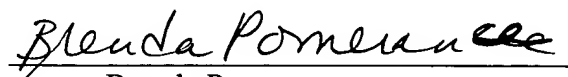
Claim 11 is an apparatus claim corresponding to claim 1, and is similarly patentably distinguished from Tavor. Claims 12-20, in depending from claim 11, each incorporate all of its features and are similarly patentably distinguished from Tavor.

All of the claims of the instant application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Early and favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned should there be any questions or issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 9, 2004

  
Brenda Pomerance  
Reg. No. 36,894

Address:  
Law Office of Brenda Pomerance  
260 West 52 St. Ste. 27B  
New York, NY 10019  
voice/fax 212 245-3940  
b.pomerance@verizon.net